The global wheat stocks were down to 107 million MT in 2007 compared with over 197 million MT in 2001; rice stocks were just 71 million MT compared with 136 million MT. All this means that the future supply of both wheat and rice is becoming more uncertain. That means prices are likely to keep going up.

India stands at a tipping point, especially, as foodgrain production is stagnating. Wheat output was 72.8 million MT in 2002. This year, it is estimated at about 90 million MT. Meanwhile, population has increased to 113 crore. So, there will be a need for imports. This, in turn, will fuel the global prices. Grain economist Mike Woolverton of Kansas State University said that as soon as India bought 7,95,000 MT of wheat at a record price of $389.45 in 8/2007, wheat futures in Europe rose by 70 per cent on expectations of more orders.

A country which has 70 per cent people living below Rs. 20/- a day, will not have the puchasing capacity of wheat at these exorbitant prices. Hence, the country needs to produce more wheat by increasing irrigation, particularly, in States like Jharkhand, Orissa and Assam that have ideal wheat-producing climate. I would urge the Government to undertake special measures in these States to increase wheat production.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2008. Mr. Kyndiah.

GOVERNMENT BILLS

The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2008

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): Sir, I beg to move:

That the Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Order, 1950, to modify the list of Scheduled Tribes in the State of Arunachal Pradesh.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Sir, I beg to move:

That the Bill be passed.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

The Sugar Development Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2008

MR. DUPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, the Sugar Development Fund (Amendmen Bill, 2008.